

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Free hearing screenings at Kentucky State Fair Aug. 16-26

Press Release Date: Thursday, August 02, 2012

Contact Information:

Frankfort, Ky. (Aug. 2, 2012) — More than 28 million Americans suffer from some degree of hearing loss. That number is expected to double by 2030. Kentucky currently ranks third per capita nationally with more than 650,000 people who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing.

Those statistics make it increasingly important for visitors to the Kentucky State Fair to stop by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) and Heuser Hearing Institute booth for a free hearing screening in the Health Horizons area of the state fair exhibit hall's south wing.

The fair runs from Aug. 16-26 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

Volunteers and staff from each organization, along with American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, will be available to answer questions and distribute literature pertaining to hearing loss. Information on communication technologies and demonstrations of various assistive listening devices and telecommunications equipment are scheduled. Requests for applications will be taken at the KCDHH portion of the booth for anyone who needs equipment to assist with hearing on the telephone, a free service to Kentuckians.

Sprint Relay representatives will also provide information and demonstrations of technology used to access the relay service, which provides equitable access to telecommunications for deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired Kentuckians.

The Heuser Hearing Institute will have licensed audiologists on site daily to conduct hearing screenings. Last year, more than 2,000 people were screened for hearing loss during the state fair. Audiologists also use a video otoscope to give fair goers a live view of the ear's interior.

Humana Senior Discount Day at the fair is Aug. 21, and KCDHH encourages all senior citizens to stop by the booth for a hearing screening.

"The Kentucky State Fair is one of our biggest, most important outreach opportunities," said Virginia L. Moore, KCDHH executive director. "We welcome all inquiries about deafness and hearing loss and look forward to seeing and serving the residents of our state at this major event."

“Breaking down barriers to good communication for deaf and hard of hearing people is very important, and the information available at our state fair booth can help folks level the communication playing field.”

For information on the fair, visit www.kystatefair.org. For information on KCDHH, visit www.kcdhh.org or contact Tom Musgrave, KCDHH Information Office Supervisor, at (502) 573-2604 or tom.musgrave@ky.gov.

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